



News Release

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Michael Deily to Retire from the UDOH

Deily has led state Medicaid Program for past 10 years

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Michael Deily has announced that he will retire as Director of the Division of Health Care Financing (Medicaid), Utah Department of Health (UDOH) on December 16, 2005. Over the past 10 years Deily has played key roles in many initiatives that have expanded access to health care for thousands of Utahns, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Primary Care Network (PCN waiver).

When Deily began public service more than 30 years ago as an eligibility technician preparing “turn-a-round” documents for data entry, he would never have imagined that 20 years later he would become director over Medicaid, one of the largest and most important health programs in the state.

“It has been a privilege to have served with three great governors and to have associated with wonderful state employees and community partners. I’m very proud of the things we’ve accomplished together,” said Deily.

Deily has navigated the Medicaid program through a decade of huge, expanded growth as more people became dependent on Medicaid and as medical costs rose sharply. Several of the accomplishments over which Deily had personal direction include:

- Working with federal officials to change regulations that allowed the legislature to increase the “spend down levels” to 100 percent of the poverty level for seniors, disabled and blind Utahns.
- In issues of community-based care, Deily was a strong supporter of giving people a choice in long-term care options allowing them to stay in their homes.

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- Working with Governor Leavitt and the legislature to obtain a federal waiver to expand health insurance to more than 18,000 Utahns through the Primary Care Network (PCN).
- Helping design the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 1998, there are more than 31,000 children currently insured through CHIP and over 93,000 different children have been insured under the program since it began.
- Locating program eligibility workers throughout the state so that filing an application to qualify for programs was easier.
- Collaborating with people with disabilities, other state agencies and the Legislature, leading to the creation of the Medicaid work incentive program and the Workability project.

“Michael has been such a great asset to the UDOH, and to me personally,” says David Sundwall, Executive Director, UDOH. “Soon after my appointment this past January, I came to rely heavily on Michael because of his extraordinary expertise and understanding of this complex federal/state insurance program. Thanks to Michael's personal commitment to public health goals, he has advised me on how to best leverage Medicaid funds to improve the overall health outcomes of those we serve, not just to pay for specific services.”

Sundwall says UDOH will conduct a national search to find someone of his intellect and ability to manage this complex and essential program.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.